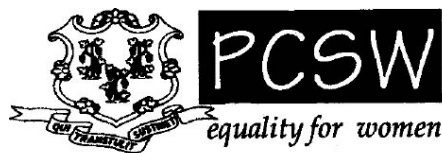


# Selected Highlights of Women's History

United States and Connecticut  
1773 to the Present



CT General Assembly  
**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**

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Women have made many contributions, large and small, to the history of our state and our nation. Learning from our past helps us to shape a more equitable future. We hope you find useful information and inspiration in this booklet.

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As we celebrate Women's History Month, the PCSW is pleased to offer this "Selected Highlights of Women's History – United States and Connecticut, 1773 to the Present." We have compiled these highlights from the following sources:

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Archiving Early America <http://www.earlyamerica.com/>

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<http://www.cwhf.org/>

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United States Department of Justice  
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USA Today. Women in Sports.  
<http://www.usatoday.com/2000/century/sports/005.htm>



1773

- **Phillis Wheatley** publishes 39 poems in London, making her America's first black poet ([www.earlyamerica.com](http://www.earlyamerica.com)).

1777

- The Continental Congress adopts the Stars-and-Stripes, sewn by **Betsy Ross**, as the national flag ([www.earlyamerica.com](http://www.earlyamerica.com)).

1821

- **Emma Willard** opens the Troy Female Seminary, the first American academic institution to provide women with an education comparable to that of a college educated man.

1829

- **Maria Miller W. Stewart** addresses a mixed-gender audience, the first American-born woman to do so. During her speech, Stewart is said to have "called on all black Americans to develop racial pride, unity and self-improvement through the expansion of educational and occupational rights." ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).

1833

- Oberlin College becomes the first coeducational college in the country. Early graduates include women's rights leaders **Lucy Stone** and **Antoinette Brown**.

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*"If society will not admit of woman's free development, then society must be remodeled."*

*- Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell*



1837

- **Mary Lyon** founds Mount Holyoke College, the first four-year exclusively female college in the country

1848

- The Seneca Falls Women's Rights Conference, organized by **Lucretia Mott** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** (pictured), is held. Resolutions calling for women's equality in education, inheritance, property rights, divorce, and custody rights are passed. Soon afterward, Stanton and **Susan B. Anthony** meet, starting a political partnership that would lead the women's movement into the next century.



1849

- **Amelia Jenks Bloomer** edits and publishes *Lily*, the first prominent women's rights newspaper.
- **Elizabeth Blackwell** (pictured) receives a medical degree from Geneva Medical College (now Hobart) in New York and becomes the first female doctor.



1850

- The first national women's rights convention is held in Worcester, Massachusetts and attracts over 1,000 participants from around the country. **Harriet Taylor** writes about the organized agitation of American women and urges that their example be followed in England. By the end of the year, a petition calling for the franchise of English women is presented to the House of Lords (Ryan, 17).
- Quaker physicians establish the Female (later Women's) Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, providing women with the chance to study medicine. Due to public hostility and threats against them, the first students graduate under police guard.

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*"Man cannot fulfill his destiny alone, he cannot redeem his race unaided... The world has never yet seen a truly great and virtuous nation, because in the degradation of women the very foundations of life are poisoned at their source."*  
-Lucretia Mott

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1851



- Male participants proclaim that women's physical abilities keep them resigned to the home and try to take over a convention in Akron, Ohio. Escaped slave, **Sojourner Truth** (pictured), debunks the men's claims with her inspirational "Ain't I a Woman" speech, stating that "If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!"
- **Myrtilla Minder** opens the first school to train African American women as teachers in Washington, D.C.



1852

- Uncle Tom's Cabin, written by Connecticut resident **Harriet Beecher Stowe** is published. This work puts a human face on the atrocities of slavery and becomes a bestseller. Stowe's friend and colleague, **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**, calls it is "the most successful book printed by a man or a woman" (Great Women in Connecticut History).

1855

- **Lucy Stone** (pictured) becomes the first woman recorded to keep her own last name after marriage. This sets a trend among women, and her followers are nicknamed "Lucy Stoners."



1857

- **Elizabeth Blackwell, Emily Blackwell, and Marie Zakrzeska** found the New York Infirmary for Indigent Women and Children, the first hospital staffed by women.

1858

- To protest women's lack of representation in the legal system, **Lucy Stone** refuses to pay taxes in Orange, New Jersey.

1859

- Our Nig, by **Harriet Wilson** is the first novel written by an African American to be published.
- **Emeline Roberts Jones** is acknowledged as the first female dentist in America ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).

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*"When so rich a harvest is before us, why do we not gather it? All is in our hands if we will but use it."*

*- Elizabeth Seton*

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1860

- Connecticut is one of the first states to enact laws prohibiting abortion.



1861

- **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** form The National Woman Suffrage Association, the first independent organization created and completely controlled by women. They dedicate themselves to working for the inclusion of women in the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- **Lucy Stone** and her husband, Henry Blackwell found the American Woman Suffrage Association. They work solely on state referendum campaigns and the possible inclusion of women in the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- Philosopher John Stuart Mill publishes *The Subjection of Women*, an analytical essay on women's position in society. The work provides a liberal philosophy that helps to spawn the ideology of the woman's rights movement (Ryan, 10).

1863

- **Mary Ann Shad Cary** establishes *The Provincial Freeman*, a newspaper that informs slaves about the possibilities of living in Canada. She becomes the first African American newspaperwoman in North America.

1864

- **Mary Walker** from Oswego, New York, an assistant surgeon during the Civil War, is the first woman to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- **Rebecca Lee Crumpler** graduates from New England Female Medical College and becomes the first African American woman to earn a medical degree.

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*"There shall never be another season of silence until women have the same rights men have on this green earth."*

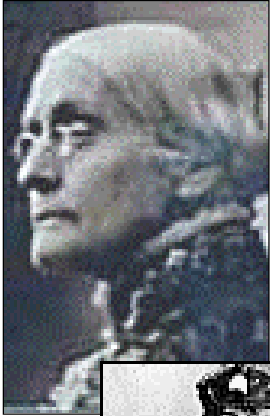
*- Susan B. Anthony*

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1865

- Due to the efforts of **Josephine Griffing**, the Federal Government establishes The National Freedman's Bureau in Washington, D.C. to aid African Americans who fled the city after the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation. A Connecticut native, Griffing also played a major role in organizing the Universal Franchise Association of D.C. and served as President of the area's Women's Suffrage Association (Great Women in Connecticut History).





1866

- The American Equal Rights Association is founded by **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Susan B. Anthony** (pictured). The organization works toward the universal goal of suffrage and its membership consists of white and black men and women.

1867

- The Cigar Maker's Union becomes the first union to accept women and African American members.



1870

- **Sarah Winnemucca** (pictured), a Paiute Indian from Nevada who speaks five languages, serves as an interpreter at Camp McDermitt in Nevada. She will later act as a representative of her people before the Secretary of State and President Rutherford B. Hayes. Her work later results in Congressional approval of a land grant in Nevada for Indian use.
- **Arbella Mansfield** of Iowa is the first woman admitted to the Bar.
- **Maria Sanford**, a native of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, becomes the first female professor in the United States (Connecticut Firsts, 1996).
- **Ada Kepley** becomes the first woman to graduate from an accredited law school (Union College of Law in Chicago).

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*"Men their rights and nothing more; women their rights and nothing less."*  
-Susan B. Anthony

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1871

- **Frances Elizabeth Willard** becomes president of Evanston College, making her the first female president of a college.

1872

- Congress passes a law that gives female federal employees the same pay for the same work as men. (120 years later Caucasian women, on average, are paid 72 cents to every dollar men are paid. Black women earn 65 cents for every dollar men earn, and Latino women earn 54 cents for every dollar men earn).







- **Susan B. Anthony** and eight other women are arrested for trying to vote for presidential candidate Ulysses S. Grant.
- **Victoria Claflin Woodhull** (pictured) is the first female candidate for President of the United States. She champions such diverse causes as women's suffrage, free love, and the Greenback movement.

1874

- The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), an organization dedicated to fighting alcohol and the effects of drunkenness on American society, is founded. The group will later have the largest women's membership of any organization. Under the leadership of Frances Willard, the group strongly endorses suffrage as a means for women to protect the home and family. This connection makes the liquor industry a powerful opponent to suffrage.

1875

- In the case of *Miner v. Hoppersatt*, the Supreme Court rules that women are not entitled to vote, even though they are considered "persons" under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

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*"I was taught that the way of progress is neither swift nor easy."*  
-Marie Curie

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1876

- **Julia Smith** of Glastonbury, Connecticut is the first woman ever to translate the Bible into other languages. She translates it once from the Latin version, twice from Greek, and twice from Hebrew, printing them all at her own expense (Connecticut Firsts, 1996).
- **Sara Spencer** becomes the first woman to address a U.S. presidential convention (Republican).

1879

- **Belva Lockwood** (pictured) of Connecticut is the first female lawyer admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. After years of her lobbying, Congress eventually passes legislation permitting women to practice in all federal courts.





1881

- **Clara Barton** (pictured, left), a former schoolteacher and clerk in the U.S. Patent Office, founds the American Red Cross and serves as President of the organization for many years.
- Spelman College, one of the country's most prestigious schools for African American women, is founded by **Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles** in the basement of the Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia (<http://www.answers.com/topic/spelman-college-1>).

1887

- **Beatrice Fox Auerbach** is born. Under her management, the Hartford department store G. Fox & Co. introduces several reforms in the workplace including sick pay, retirement benefits, and the five-day, forty-hour workweek. G. Fox & Co. also becomes the first major retail store in the country to hire African Americans in significant jobs ([www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/auerbach.html](http://www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/auerbach.html)).

1889

- **Jane Adams** (pictured), an advocate for the urban poor, founds the Hull House in Chicago, one of the first settlement houses in America. The Hull House provides programs such as day care and adult education and inspires many similar programs across the nation. Adams' lifelong humanitarianism is rewarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 ([http://www.star.niu.edu/indepth look/womens history/profiles/index.asp](http://www.star.niu.edu/indepth_look/womens_history/profiles/index.asp)).
- Connecticut grants Druggist (Pharmacist) licenses to women.



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*"All talk of women's rights is moonshine. Women have every right. They only have to exercise them."*

*-Victoria Claffin Woodhull*

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1890

- **Dr. Ida Gray**, an African American born in Clarksville, TX, becomes the first female dentist in the U.S. and for years runs a successful practice in Cincinnati, OH.
- The American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman Suffrage Association merge to become the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

1891

- **Lydia Kamekeha Liliuokalani** (pictured), the last ruler of the Hawaiian Islands, becomes Queen. Queen Liliuokalani is an opponent to annexation by the U.S. and is deposed in 1893.



1892

- Basketball is introduced at Smith College, but with modified rules to accommodate women's "fragile" bodies. The first intercollegiate women's basketball game is played four years later between Stanford and the University of California at Berkeley ([www.search.eb.com/women](http://www.search.eb.com/women)).

1895

- **Lucy Terry Prince**, a former slave from Rhode Island, is the first woman to address the Supreme Court. She successfully defends a land claim.

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*"A sphere is not made up of one, but of an infinite number of circles; women have diverse gifts and to say that women's sphere is the family circle is a mathematical absurdity."*

*-Maria Mitchell*

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1896

- The National Federation of Afro-American Women and the National League of Colored Women merge to form the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). The organization's first goals include job creation, childcare and equal pay. **Mary Church Terrell** serves as the group's first president ([www.search.eb.com/women](http://www.search.eb.com/women)).

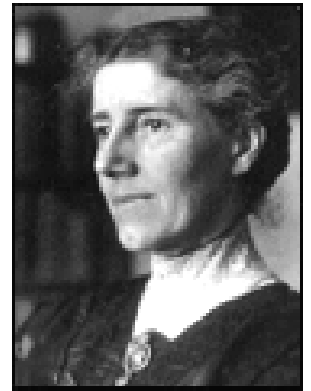




- **Annie Jump Cannon** (pictured, left) begins her work at the Harvard Observatory. Collaborating with **Willamena Flemming**, she undertakes the project of recording, classifying, and cataloguing all of the stars down to the ninth magnitude. Cannon devises a system of cataloguing stars by temperature and more than a quarter of a million stars are classified using her system (<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=33>).

1898

- **Mable Osgood Wright**, founder of the Connecticut Audubon Society, establishes the Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary, the first bird sanctuary in the United States ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).
- **Charlotte Perkins Gilman** (pictured, right) publishes Women in Economics, a piece that argues for the socialization of housework through the establishment of communal kitchens and nurseries so that women could work outside the home and become economically independent. She also publishes "The Yellow Wallpaper," a short story about a woman's mental anguish and progressive paranoia when subjected to the so-called "rest cure" for female depression ([www.gale.com/freresrc/womenhst/gilman.html](http://www.gale.com/freresrc/womenhst/gilman.html)).



1901

- **Emily Dunning Barringer** (pictured) of New Canaan, Connecticut graduates from Cornell University Medical School. Despite high marks on her qualifying exam for an internship at Gouverneur Hospital of New York, she is denied the position because of her gender. She reapplies one year later with the support of political and religious figures and is accepted, becoming the first female physician to receive post-graduate surgical training in hospital service and the first female ambulance surgeon (<http://www.cwhf.org/browse/BARRINGER>).

1903

- **Lillian Wald** and **Jane Addams** found the Women's Trade Union League. The organization promotes feminism and trade unionism and involves middle-class and working-class women working together to improve the lives of employed women (Ryan 26).



1908

- In *Muller v. Oregon* the U.S. Supreme Court declares unconstitutional protective legislation that limits the number of hours a woman can work “in any mechanical establishment, or factory, or laundry” (U.S. Supreme Court).

1909

- The National Trade and Professional School for Women is founded by **Nannie Burroughs** in Washington, D.C. The school’s motto is: “We specialize in the wholly impossible.”



1910

- **Madame C.J. Walker** (pictured) becomes the first female self-made millionaire of any race. Her quality beauty products rival those of **Helena Rubenstein** and **Elizabeth Arden**.
- The Woman’s Suffrage Party (a political party) forms in New York City.
- **Louisa Capetillo** creates *Woman*, the first Puerto Rican feminist magazine.
- The governor of Illinois asks Connecticut native **Dr. Alice Hamilton** to act as special investigator for a new state commission on industrial disease. Dr. Hamilton’s appointment results in a sweeping reform of working conditions and many states pass laws to provide compensation for disabilities caused by toxic fumes, gases, and dusts. She goes on to study industrial diseases in all 48 states ([Great Women in Connecticut History](#)).

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*“Woman must not accept; she must challenge. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her; she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression.”*

*-Margaret Sanger*

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1911

- **Harriet Quimby** of New York becomes the first woman to qualify for an American aviation pilot’s license.



- **Katherine Gibbs** founds the first secretarial school in Massachusetts. The female students learn not only secretarial skills, but also about business and the liberal arts.

1912

- **Juliette Gordon Low** (pictured) forms the first American unit of Girl Guides. This organization later becomes the Girl Scouts of America.



1913

- **Katherine Houghton Hepburn** organizes the Hartford Equal Franchise League. For the next 12 years, she devotes herself to the fight for women's suffrage, attending street rallies and parades, picketing the White House, and debating the right to vote in Carnegie Hall. After the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, she begins campaigning for birth control and eventually serves as the legislative chair of the American Birth Control League (Great Women in Connecticut History).

1914

- **Alice Paul** and **Lucy Burns** form the Congressional Union (later known and the National Women's Party). The group organizes parades, large scale demonstrations, and establishes a weekly publication titled *The Suffragist*. In 1915, they caravan from California to Washington and collect over 500,000 signatures petitioning for women's suffrage.
- The National Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization whose membership included more than 2 million black and white women, endorses the suffrage movement.

1916



- **Margaret Sanger** (pictured) and her sister, **Ethel Byrne**, open the first birth control clinic in the United States. The clinic stays open only 10 days before it is shut down and both women are tried and imprisoned. Sanger continues her fight and goes on to found the American Birth Control League, which later becomes Planned Parenthood. Sanger is considered by many to be the founder of the Birth Control Movement.

- **Jeannette Rankin** (pictured) of Montana becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. A committed pacifist, Rankin is the only member of Congress to vote against U.S. entry into both World Wars.




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*"Perhaps some day men will raise a tablet reading in letters of gold: 'All honor to women, the first disenfranchised class in history who unaided by any political party, won enfranchisement by its own effort alone, and achieved the victory without the shedding of a drop of human blood. All honor to the women of the world!'"*

*-Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

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1917



- Sharpshooter and former star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, **Annie Oakley** (pictured) tours WWI Army camps, giving lessons to the soldiers.
- **Kate Gleason** becomes president of the First National Bank of East Rochester, making her the first female bank president in U.S. history.
- **Emma Goldman** serves 15 days in prison for distributing information on contraception.
- **Loretta Walsh** becomes the first Yeoman in the United States Navy.

1918

- Women are deemed a necessity in the workforce to replace the male labor that was lost due to fighting WWI overseas. Women take on jobs in heavy industry, mining, chemical manufacturing, and automobile and railway plants. In addition, they run streetcars, conduct trains, and do almost everything that men did before they were called to war. At this time, approximately 1,400,000 women are in the paid labor force, most of whom will be forced out and back into domestic roles at the war's end ([www.search.eb.com/women](http://www.search.eb.com/women)).

1919

- **Therese Bonney**, a war photographer during WWII, founds the first American illustrated press service in Paris.



- **Opha M. Johnson** is the first female to enlist in the United States Marine Corps Reserves ([www.userpages.aug.com](http://www.userpages.aug.com)).
- **Alice Hamilton** becomes the first female professor at Harvard Medical School. She teaches as a Professor of Industrial Medicine and conducts research on toxic substances in the workplace ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).

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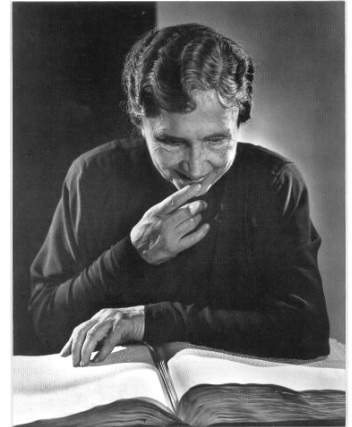
*"I am the only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."*

*-Helen Keller*

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## 1920

- On August 26, the Nineteenth Amendment is ratified and women are granted suffrage under the United States Constitution.
- Congress establishes The Women's Bureau as part of the Department of Labor. Its purpose is to set standards and policies that promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.
- The American Civil Liberties Union is formed. Its social reformers include: **Jane Addams**, **Helen Gurley Flynn**, and **Helen Keller** (pictured).



## 1921

- **Lillian Gilbreth**, U.S. engineer, becomes an honorary member of the previously all-male Society of Industrial Engineers.

## 1922

- Georgia Senator Thomas E. Watson dies in office and 87-year-old **Rebecca Latimer Felton** is appointed to fill the vacant seat. Felton becomes the first female U.S. senator and serves two days before "relinquishing her seat to Senator Walter F. George following his special election" (<http://www.roselawnmuseum.com/history/felton.html>).



## 1923

- The Connecticut chapter of Planned Parenthood is formed.



- At the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the 1848 Woman's Rights Convention, **Alice Paul** (pictured) introduces the "Lucretia Mott Amendment." Believing that this Equal Rights Amendment was necessary for freedom from legal sex discrimination, Paul phrases the legislation as "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." The amendment is introduced in every session of Congress until it finally passes in 1972 (<http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/era.htm>).

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*"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."*  
-Helen Keller

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## 1924

- **Ora Washington** becomes the first African American woman to win the American Tennis Association singles title.
- **Nellie Taylor Ross** (Wyoming) and **Miriam Ferguson** (Texas) become the first and second female governors. Both replace their husbands.

## 1925

- **Maria Tallchief**, regarded by many as the greatest American-born ballerina of all-time, is born on the Osage Reservation in Oklahoma.
- **Vivien Kellems** begins manufacturing cable grips, used for pulling electrical cable cars through underground conduits. The Kellems Company is established in Westport, Connecticut and its business grows exponentially due to government demands during World War I.

1926



- American swimmer **Gertrude Ederle** (pictured) becomes the first female to swim across the English Channel, breaking the previous record by more than two hours. New York City Mayor James J. Walker likened Ederle's feat to that of Moses parting the Red Sea, Caesar crossing the Rubicon and Washington crossing the Delaware. Ederle was greeted in America with a ticker tape parade, attended by over two million people (<http://www.msu.edu/~grawbur1/iahweb.html>).

- **Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt** of Hartford, Connecticut dies. A civic leader, philanthropist, and one of the first women in America to establish a major art collection and gallery of her own, Colt bequeaths her collection to the Wadsworth Atheneum upon her death.

- **Violet Neatly Anderson** becomes the first African American woman to practice law in the Supreme Court.

1929

- **Amelia Earhart** (pictured) founds the Ninety-Nines (the number of charter members), an international organization of female pilots. Three years later, Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, adding this accomplishment to her many records for speed and altitude.



1930

- **Dr. Martha Wollstein** becomes the first female member of the American Pediatric Society.

1931

- The Association of Southern Women Against Lynching is founded by **Jessie Daniel Ames** of Texas.

1932

- **Babe Didrikson Zaharias** (pictured), who is often considered the best female athlete in history, wins three gold medals in track and field events at the Los Angeles Olympics. Also an accomplished golfer, Didrikson Zaharias won 31 LPGA titles, including two U.S. Open Championships in her career.



- **Hattie Wyatt Caraway** of Arkansas becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. While in office, she also becomes the first woman to chair a committee, conduct Senate hearings, and preside over Senate sessions.
- President Herbert Hoover appoints **Mary Woolley** as a delegate to the Conference on Reduction and Limitation of Armaments in Geneva. This appointment makes her the first woman to represent American interests at an important diplomatic conference.

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*"Woman must not accept; she must change. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her, she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression."*

*-Margaret Sanger*

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**1933**

- **Mary McLeod Bethune** (pictured) serves under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration and assists the Secretary of War in selecting officer candidates for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps during WWII. She is the only black woman advisor during the 1930s (<http://www.blackhistory.eb.com>).

- **Nellie Taylor Ross**, former governor of Wyoming, becomes the first female director of the U.S. Mint.
- **Rachel Taylor Milton** founds the Urban League of Hartford and later receives the B'nai Brith's "Woman of the Year" award.



- **Frances Perkins** (pictured) of Massachusetts becomes U.S. Secretary of Labor, making her the first female Cabinet member in the United States. During her 12- year tenure, she establishes the Labor Standards Bureau, strengthens state labor law enforcement, and is the chief architect of the Social Security Act. The Department of Labor Headquarters is named after her (<http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/history/perkins.htm>).

1937

- **Anne O'Hare McCormick** is the first woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for her work as a foreign correspondent.

1938

- Democrat **Crystal Bird Fauset** of Pennsylvania is the first African American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.
- Women's tennis star, **Helen Wills Moody**, captures the last of her 19 Grand Slam singles titles, including eight Wimbledons, seven U.S. Opens and four French Open crowns.
- The Walsh-Healy Act creates a federal minimum wage. This wage does not apply to all workers—it generally excludes women and racial minorities.

1939

- The Birth Control Federation of America begins its pernicious "Negro Project." This project is designed to control the population of people deemed less fit to raise children, rather than to provide women of color with a means to gain more control over their own reproductive rights.
- **Jane Bolin** is appointed as a judge of the Domestic Relations Court by New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. This makes her the first female African American judge in the United States.

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*"It was we, the people; not we the white male citizens; not yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union."*

*-Susan B. Anthony*

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1940

- **Dorothy Vredenburg Bush** becomes the first female secretary of the Democratic National Committee. She goes on to oversee nine national conventions.
- **Bernie M. McPherson** wins a National Award for developing a most cost-effective welding process for weapons sites. She later becomes the first female member of the American Welding Society.



1941

- **Chase Going Woodhouse** (pictured) becomes the first Democratic woman to serve as Secretary of the State in Connecticut. Three years later, she is elected to represent Connecticut's Second District in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **Annie G. Fox**, who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor, becomes the first woman to receive the Purple Heart.



1942

- **Kathryn Betts Haggerty** becomes the first non-military policewoman in Connecticut.
- **Clare Booth Luce** (pictured) wins a seat in the United States House of Representatives and becomes Connecticut's first female Congresswoman. Luce goes on to serve two terms in the House and in 1953 is appointed Ambassador to Italy by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. With this appointment, Luce becomes first female ambassador to a major country.
- **Suzanna K. Langer**, a philosopher and pioneer in the field of aesthetics, publishes her book, Philosophy in a New Key: A Study in the Symbolism of Reason, Rite, and Art. The book helps to solidify her position as a leading figure in the philosophy of art.



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*"There are two ways of meeting difficulties. You alter the difficulties or you alter yourself to meet them."*

*-Phyllis Bottome*

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1943

- Because of WWII and the draft, many minor league baseball teams are forced to disband. In response, P.K. Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs, founds the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The Racine Belles win the first World Championship of Women's Professional Baseball (<http://www.aagpbl.org/>).



- **Lt. Edith Greenwood** receives The Soldiers Medal for her heroism at a military hospital in Yuma, Arizona during WWII. She is the first woman to earn the honor.
- **Lt. Elsie S. Ott** is awarded with the Air Medal for her duties as an air evacuation nurse. She is the first female to receive the award ([www.userpagse.aug.com](http://www.userpagse.aug.com)).

#### 1945

- The Equal Pay for Equal Work bill is introduced into Congress. It passes in 1963.
- Women industrial workers who replaced the men who left to fight overseas during WWII begin losing their jobs in large numbers to returning servicemen.
- As the winner of a Fine Arts Commission contest, **Dr. Selma Burke** is awarded the task of creating a portrait for the Roosevelt dime. Because the coin is inscribed only with the engraver's initials, Burke is never properly credited for the portrait ([www.octobergallery.com/artists/burke.htm](http://www.octobergallery.com/artists/burke.htm)).
- **Eleanor Roosevelt** (pictured) is named as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations. She eventually chairs the commission that is responsible for drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



#### 1946

- **Dorothy Shaver** is the first woman to assume the presidency of a major department store, Lord and Taylor.
- The United Nations establishes the Commission on the Status of Women.
- **Ann Petry's** book The Street is published. It quickly becomes the first book by an African American woman to sell over one million copies ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).

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*"To be somebody, a woman does not have to be more like a man, but has to be more of a woman."*

*-Sally E. Shaywitz*

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1947

- Cultural anthropologist **Ruth Fulton Benedict** (pictured) becomes president of the American Anthropological Association.
- **Margaret Fogarty Rudkin**, founder of Pepperidge Farms, opens the company's first modern bakery. Pepperidge Farms becomes affiliated with Campbell's Soup Company in 1968 and sales soar into the millions ([www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/rudkin.htm](http://www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/rudkin.htm)).



- Explorer and cartographer **Barbara Washburn** becomes the first woman to climb Mount McKinley.



1948

- After four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, **Margaret Chase Smith** (pictured) of Maine becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right. In 1964, she becomes the first woman to run for U.S. presidency in the primaries of a major political party (Republican). She comes in second to Barry Goldwater.

1950

- The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) is established. It remains the longest running women's sports association in the world, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2000.

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*"A good goal is like a strenuous exercise - it makes you stretch."*

*-Mary Kay Ash*

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1951

- **Lillian Vernon** becomes the first woman to found a company that is traded on a stock exchange ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).

1952

- **Andrea Mead Lawrence** of Vermont is the first American, male or female, to win two gold medals in skiing at the Olympics.



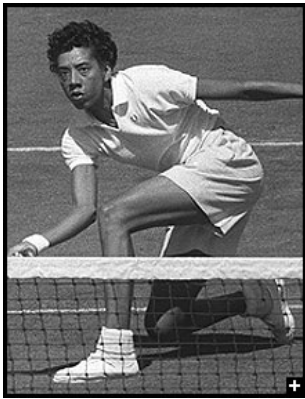


1955

- On December 1, **Rosa Parks** (pictured) refuses to relinquish her bus seat to a white man. Her decision to remain seated serves as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement and its effort to bring an end to institutionalize segregation in the South.
- Singer **Marian Anderson** makes her debut at the Metropolitan Opera, becoming the first black woman in the company. She is later named a delegate to the United Nations and receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Carter ([www.ctforum.org/cwhf.anderson.html](http://www.ctforum.org/cwhf.anderson.html)).



1957



- **Anne W. Wheaton** serves under Eisenhower as the first presidential spokeswoman until 1961.
- **Althea Gibson** (pictured) becomes the first African American woman to win Wimbledon and Forest Hills ([http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/siforwomen/top\\_100/30/](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/siforwomen/top_100/30/)).

1958

- **Ethel Percy Andrus** founds the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), an organization that addresses the needs of mature Americans and lobbies government officials on their behalf

(<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=10>).

1959

- **Lorraine Hansberry** wins the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for A Raisin in the Sun. This is the first play to appear on Broadway that was written by an African American woman.
- **Anne Dervartanian**, of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), became the first woman to attain E-9, the highest ranked position within the military ([www.search.eb.com/women](http://www.search.eb.com/women)).

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*"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."*

*-Eleanor Roosevelt*

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1960

- The Food and Drug Administration approves the birth control pill for sale in the U.S. This safe and convenient form of birth control plays a major role in the “sexual revolution.”
- **Wilma Rudolph** (pictured) becomes the first African American woman to receive three gold medals in the Olympics. Her numerous accomplishments help to break down racial and gender barriers in previously all-male track and field events ([www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/rudo-wil.htm](http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/rudo-wil.htm)).



1961

- **Eleanor Roosevelt**, a driving force behind the creation of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, is appointed Commission chair by President John F. Kennedy.
- To challenge Connecticut’s ban on birth control, **Estelle Griswold** (pictured) and Dr. C. Lee Buxton open a birth control center to dispense contraceptives. Their arrest and conviction lead to the 1965 Supreme Court decision of *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which overturns Connecticut’s law and leads to the definition of a constitutional right to privacy.



1962

- **Rachel Carson** publishes The Silent Spring, a book that becomes the foundation of the modern environmental movement and leads to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.rachelcarson.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=bio>).

1963

- Congress passes the Federal Equal Pay Act, promoting equal pay for equal work and taking the first step against sex discrimination.
- **Betty Friedan** (pictured, left) publishes The Feminine Mystique. Considered a catalyst for the women’s movement and one of the most influential American books in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, The Feminine Mystique discusses the emptiness and frustration many women feel in their traditional roles as housewives and mothers.



- In spite of racial harassment, **Fannie Lou Hamer**, the daughter of a sharecropper in rural Mississippi, passes her voter registration test. She later leads a demonstration to gain access for African Americans to the Democratic National Convention.
- **Katherine Graham** (pictured, right) steps in as publisher of the *Washington Post* and successfully runs the paper for 10 years. She later wins a Pulitzer Prize for her autobiography Personal History.



#### 1964

- Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, or national origin. This act also establishes the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In its first five years of existence, the committee receives 50,000 sex discrimination complaints.



- Volleyball is introduced as the first Olympic team sport for women.
- **Rita Moreno** (pictured), a native of Humacao, Puerto Rico, makes her acting debut in the film, *West Side Story*. Moreno later becomes the first woman to win all four of the biggest awards in show business: an Oscar (film), a Tony (Broadway theater), an Emmy (television), and a Grammy (recording) (<http://welcome.topuertorico.org/culture/famouspr.html>).

#### 1965

- **Patsy Mink** of Hawaii is the first Japanese-American woman to be elected to Congress.
- **Patricia Roberts Harris** is appointed ambassador to Luxembourg and becomes the first female African-American ambassador.

#### 1966

- *Weeks v. Southern Bell* marks a major triumph in the fight against restrictive labor laws and company regulations on the hours and conditions of women's work. This opens many jobs that were previously male exclusive of women. **Betty Friedan** founds The National Organization for Women (NOW).



- **Barbara Jordan** (pictured) becomes the first woman ever elected to the Texas Senate. Jordan remains in the Senate until 1972, when she becomes a member of the U.S. of House of Representatives. She later receives national recognition during the House Judiciary Committee's hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon.
- **Constance Baker Motley** is appointed U.S. district judge, Southern District of New York. This makes her the first female African American federal judge.




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*"A women's place is in the House and the Senate."  
-Gloria Schaffer*

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### 1967

- **Ann Uccello** is elected mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, becoming the first female mayor of a capitol city in the U.S. She later goes to Washington where she serves as the Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs.
- Disguising herself in a baseball cap and applying under the name "K. Switzer," **Katherine Switzer** becomes the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.
- **Muriel Siebert** becomes the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange ([www.search.eb.com/women](http://www.search.eb.com/women)).

### 1968

- **Barbara Watson** becomes the first woman to head a State Department Bureau when she is named assistant secretary in the State Department Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs.
- **Shirley Chisholm** (pictured) becomes the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1972, she is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and wins 152 delegates before withdrawing from the race. Chisholm is also credited for founding the National Women's Political Caucus (<http://www.blackhistory.eb.com>).



- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission rules that sex-segregated help wanted advertisements in newspapers are illegal. The Supreme Court upholds this ruling in 1973, and it becomes easier for women to apply for previously male-exclusive jobs.



1969

- In the *Bowe v. Colgate-Palmolive* ruling, the Supreme Court finds that women meeting the physical necessary requirements can work in formerly male-dominated jobs.
- **Joan Ganz Cooney's** (pictured) show *Sesame Street* debuts. A product of her research on the use of television for preschool education, *Sesame Street* is still popular today (<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=43>).

1970

- **Elizabeth P. Hoisington** and **Anna Mae Hays** of Pennsylvania are promoted to the rank of brigadier general, making them first female generals in U.S. history.
- San Diego University establishes the first Women's Studies program in the country.
- **Diane Crump**, who was born in Milford, Connecticut, becomes the first female jockey to race in the Kentucky Derby.
- On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage, NOW organizes its first Women's Strike for Equality and Justice. Fifty thousand people march in mass demonstrations in New York.
- Oceanographer, conservationist, and entrepreneur **Dr. Sylvia Earle** (pictured) leads the first team of women aquanauts on a two-week exploration of the ocean floor. In 1979, she will walk un-tethered on the sea floor at a depth lower than any other person before or since (<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=54>).



1971

- The first battered women's shelter in the U.S., founded by **Cheryl Frank** and **Jacqueline Flenner**, opens in Urbana, Illinois.



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*"The most exciting thing about women's liberation is that this century will be able to take advantage of talent and potential genius that have been wasted because of taboos."*

*- Helen Reddy*

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- *Reed v. Reed*, the first sex discrimination suit to reach the Supreme Court, is decided in favor of the woman.
- **Billie Jean King** (pictured), a professional tennis player, becomes the first female athlete to win more than \$100,000 in a single season. She wins an additional \$100,000 in 1973 when she defeats Bobby Riggs in a singles match billed as the "Battle of the Sexes."

## 1972

- The Equal Rights Amendment is passed by the Senate and recommended to the states for ratification. Originally drafted by Alice Paul, it reads that, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on the account of sex."
- Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is passed. According to the legislation, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded in any way from practicing in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance" (<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cor/coord/titleixstat.htm>).
- **Gloria Steinem** (pictured) creates *Ms. Magazine*, the first magazine owned, edited, and published by women for women.

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*"I've yet to be on a campus where most women weren't worrying about some aspect of combining marriage, children, and a career. I've yet to find one where many men were worrying about the same thing."*

*-Gloria Steinem*

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- **Susan Lynn Roley** and **Joanne E. Pierce** become the first female FBI agents.
- The first emergency rape crisis hotline opens in Washington, D.C. By 1976, four hundred independent rape crisis centers are operating nationwide, offering counseling, self-defense classes, and support groups.
- **Chien-Shiung Wu** is appointed to an endowed professorship as the Pupin Professor of Physics at Columbia University. A pioneering physicist, she is the first woman to win the prestigious Research Corporation Award, the Comstock Prize from the National Academy of Sciences, and the first living scientist to have an asteroid named after her (<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=174>).

### 1973

- In the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the U. S. Supreme Court declares unconstitutional laws restricting a woman's right to abortion during the first two trimesters.
- **The General Assembly of Connecticut establishes the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW).**
- The Prudence Crandall Center opens in New Britain, Connecticut. It is the first women's shelter in Connecticut.
- The U.S. military is integrated when the women-only branches are eliminated.

### 1974

- Little League Baseball, Inc. decides that girls are now eligible to compete in all of its 9,100 leagues.
- The Coalition for Labor Union Women is founded.
- **Adrienne Baughns-Wallace** (pictured) becomes the first female television broadcaster in Connecticut as well as the first African American woman broadcaster in New England. In 2000, she is inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. *The Hartford Courant* calls her "the most watched woman in Connecticut" ([www.chwf.org](http://www.chwf.org)).



1975



- **Ella Grasso** (pictured) of Connecticut becomes the first woman in U.S. history to be elected governor in her own right. Considered a liberal Democrat always looking for ways to economize, she once returns a \$7,000 raise she cannot legally refuse to the state treasury. Grasso endears herself to her constituents during the 1978 blizzard when she stays at the State Armory around the clock, directing emergency operations and making frequent television appearances ([www.chwf.org/browse/inductees/grass.htm](http://www.chwf.org/browse/inductees/grass.htm)).
- **Edythe J. Gaines** becomes superintendent of the Hartford school system. This makes her the first African American and one of the first two women to become the superintendent of a Connecticut school ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).
- **Elizabeth Ann Seton** is canonized and becomes the first American-born saint of the Roman Catholic Church.
- New federal rules requiring equal treatment of males and females in admissions, financial aid, classrooms, dress codes, and auxiliary activities are put into effect.

1976

- The United Nation's "Decade of Women" begins.
- Pitcher **Joan Joyce** leads the Connecticut Falcons to the World Series Championship in the International Women's Professional Softball Association.
- **Barbara Walters** (pictured) becomes the first female co-anchor of the evening news and at the time, is the highest-paid news broadcaster. Walters would later help shape prime-time magazine shows and today still appears on ABC's 20/20 (<http://www.star.niu.edu/in-depth/look/womens/history/profiles/index.asp>).
- **Sarah Caldwell** becomes the first female to ever conduct at the Metropolitan Opera House.



1978

- The Pregnancy Discrimination Act is passed. The legislation prevents employers from firing or denying a woman a job because she is pregnant or forcing her to take a pregnancy leave if she is willing and able to work.





- **Toni Morrison's** (pictured) Song of Solomon wins the National Book Critics Circle Award. She becomes the first African American woman to win the honor.
- Connecticut police agree to arrest husbands for spousal abuse even if the wife does not bring charges.
- Competing on the uneven bars, **Marcia Frederick** of Milford, Connecticut becomes the first American woman to win a gold medal in the World Gymnastics championships in Strasbourg, France.

- **Ellen Ash Peters** is the first woman to be named a justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. She is named Chief Justice six years later ([www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/peters.html](http://www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/peters.html)).

- **Geraldine Ferraro** (pictured) of New York is elected to Congress. She spearheads efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment and sponsors the Women's Economic Equity Act of 1984. Later that year, she becomes the first female vice-presidential candidate for a major party (Democratic). Though Ferraro and Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale are defeated by incumbent Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, she remains in the public eye for years, serving as an international policy expert to this day (<http://teacher.scholastic.com/researchtools/articlearchives/womhst/gerald.htm#top>).



## 1980

- Election polls bring light to the "Gender Gap." For the first time, women report different political priorities than men.
- Connecticut passes a law defining and prohibiting sexual harassment under Connecticut's Unfair Employment Practices Act.
- **Paula D. Hughes** of Greenwich, Connecticut is the first woman to be appointed to one of the seven seats on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors. She is known as the Postal Governess (Connecticut Firsts, 1996).
- The General Assembly passes a law defining and prohibiting sexual harassment under Connecticut's Unfair Employment Practices Act.



- **Edna Noemi Negron Rosario** (pictured, right) establishes the first family resource center and school-based health clinic in the nation ([www.cwhf.org](http://www.cwhf.org)).
- Casa de Esperanza opens a shelter for battered Latinas in the Twin Cities.




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*"Do the best you can in every task, no matter how unimportant it may seem at the time.  
No one learns more about a problem than the person at the bottom."  
-Sandra Day O'Connor*

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1981



- **Sandra Day O'Connor** (pictured, left) is the first woman to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier in her career, Arizona law firms did not hire her because she is a woman. Undaunted, O'Connor starts her own law firm and goes on to serve as assistant Attorney General, an Arizona State Senator, and a judge on both the district and state levels before being appointed to the highest court in the nation (<http://www.star.niu.edu/in-depth/look/womens/history/profiles/index.asp>).

1982

- The deadline for the ERA ratification expires. Only 35 of the necessary 38 states vote to ratify it, therefore it does not become an amendment.
- **Maya Lin**, a Chinese-American woman studying architecture at Yale College, enters and wins a contest designing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The structure, once deemed highly controversial, continues to be admired in Washington, D.C. ([www.greatbuildings.com](http://www.greatbuildings.com)).

1983

- **Dr. Sally K. Ride** (pictured) of Encino, CA is America's first female astronaut. She spends six days in space during her first flight and her second mission lasts 197 hours. Later she becomes part of the Presidential Commission that investigates the Challenger explosion ([www.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/96may/ride.html](http://www.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/96may/ride.html)).



1984

- EMILY's List (Early Money is Like Yeast), the financial network for pro-choice Democratic candidates running for national political office, is founded. Its formation has a significant impact on the increasing number of women being elected to office. The group has helped to elect 11 Democratic women senators, 61 congresswomen, and eight governors (<http://www.emilyslist.org/index.html>).

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*"For women there are, undoubtedly, great difficulties in the path, but so much more to overcome. First, no woman should say, 'I am but a woman!' But a woman! What more can you ask to be?"*

*-Maria Mitchell*

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- **Jody Cohen** comes to Connecticut to serve as Associate Rabbi and Educator to Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford. While there, Cohen establishes the first synagogue-run day care center in North America. Today, she serves as regional director of the Southeast Council, Union of American Hebrew Congregations ([www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/cohen.html](http://www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/cohen.html)).
- **Sandra Cisneros** publishes her best-known work, The House on Mango Street. Well known for her short story collections that depict many of her childhood experiences, the book is about her Mexican father and Chicana mother and examines the issues of poverty, cultural suppression, self-identity, and gender roles (<http://www.lasmujeres.com/sandracisneros/cisnerosbio.html>).



- Twenty-year-old speed skater, **Bonnie Blair** (pictured) makes her Olympic debut. Though she places 8<sup>th</sup> in this 500-meter race, she never loses another Olympic 500 meter race. Blair wins consecutive gold medals in the 500-meter at the 1988 and 1992 Games (where she also wins the 1,000m) and concludes her career two years later by winning the 500- and 1,000-meter races at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer.

1985

- **Wilma Mankiller** (pictured) becomes the first female chief of the Oklahoma Cherokee Indian Nation. She is responsible for 139,000 people and a \$69 million budget (<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=104>).
- **Tracy Thurman** of Connecticut is the first woman to win a civil suit as a battered wife. This sets the stage for major reform of state statutes regarding domestic violence.
- **Denise L. Matthews** of Old Saybrook, Connecticut becomes the first woman to graduate at the head of her class at a military academy. She graduates from the Coast Guard Academy in New London and, given her pick of assignments, elects to serve on a buoy tender in Honolulu (Connecticut Firsts, 1996).



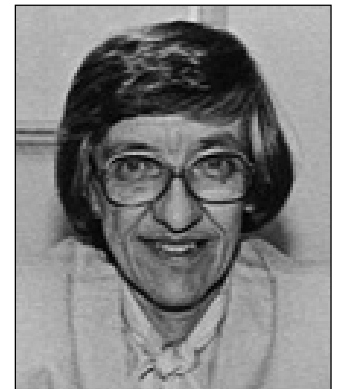
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*"If you don't like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time."*

*-Marian Wright Edleman*

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- **Penny Harrington** becomes the first female police chief of a major city- Portland, Oregon.
- **Libby Riddles** becomes the first woman to win the 1,135-mile Iditarod.
- **Betty C. Tianti** (pictured) is the first female president of a state AFL-CIO federation. In 1988, she becomes Connecticut's first female Commissioner of Labor. ([www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/tianti.htm](http://www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/tianti.htm)).



1986

- National Women in Sports Day is created by a joint congressional resolution to fight gender discrimination in sports.



- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that sexual harassment violates federal law and is a form of illegal job discrimination.
- **Amy Eilberg** becomes the first woman ordained as a rabbi by the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly.
- **Ann Bancroft** (pictured), a teacher, athlete, and respected polar explorer is the first woman to travel across the ice to the North Pole. In 1992, Bancroft continues her record-breaking adventures by leading the first American women's team east to west across Greenland on skis. In 1993, she leads the American Women's Expedition, a group of four women who ski over 600 miles pulling heavy sleds to the South Pole. In 2001, she and Norwegian polar explorer **Liv Arnesen** (pictured with Bancroft) become the first women in history to ski and sail across Antarctica's landmass- completing a 94 day, 1,717 mile trek (<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=16>).




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*"In a society where the rights and potential of women are constrained, no man can be truly free. He may have power, but he will not have freedom."*  
*-Mary Robinson*

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## 1987

- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the average woman earned only 64% of the median male income in 1984.
- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that states have the right to deny unemployment to women who leave work because of pregnancy.
- **Carrie Saxon Perry** is elected mayor of Hartford, Connecticut and becomes first African American woman to be elected mayor of a New England city.
- **Suzanne Cutler** of Colchester, Connecticut is the first woman in the nation to be named executive vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank (Connecticut Firsts, 1996).

## 1988

- A coalition of women marches on Washington in support of the passage of the proposed Family and Medical Leave Act.
- **Sarah Fulcher** finishes the world's longest continuous solo run. Certified by the *Guinness Book of World Records*, she ran 11,134 miles around the perimeter of the United States, averaging a marathon everyday for 14 months.

## 1989

- The Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women works with Connecticut state legislative leaders to create the first family and medical leave protections in the county.

## 1990

- More women than ever before are in combat support roles. Nearly 10% of the armed forces in the Middle East are women.
- One of the most progressive laws in the country concerning women's reproductive rights is passed in Connecticut.
- Captain **Marsha Evans** becomes the first woman to command a Naval Station.
- **Commander Rosemary Mariner** is the first woman to assume command of an aviation squadron.
- **Commander Darlene Iskra** becomes the first woman to command a U.S. Navy Ship- the U.S.S. Opportune ([www.userpages.aug.com](http://www.userpages.aug.com)).
- **Antonia Novello** is the first woman and the first Hispanic to become the Surgeon General of the United States. She "was among the first to recognize the need to focus on women with AIDS and on neonatal transmission of HIV" ([www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org)).

## 1991

- **Anita Hill** (pictured) brings charges of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, introducing sexual harassment to the public consciousness.



- **Barbara Kennelly** (pictured, right) is appointed as one of the three Chief Deputy Majority Whips in the U.S. House of Representatives, making her the highest-ranking woman in the House. Kennelly is the first woman in history to serve as Deputy Majority Whip and the first to serve on the House Intelligence Committee. She serves six years on the House Intelligence Committee and is the first woman to chair one of its subcommittees. In 1995, Representative Kennelly becomes the Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus. She runs for governor in 1998, but is defeated by incumbent John Rowland ([www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/kennelly.htm](http://www.cwhf.org/browse/inductees/kennelly.htm)).



## 1992

- The American Medical Association issues guidelines to physicians recommending that they ask female patients if they have been abused. These guidelines are in response to the prevalence of domestic violence cases.
- **Carol Moseley-Braun** is the first African American woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

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*"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead."*  
 -Louisa May Alcott

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- Connecticut passes an act that requires employers to train their managers about sexual harassment.
- **Lucille Roybal-Allard** became the first Mexican-American woman to be elected into the House of Representatives.
- **Nydia M. Velazquez** (pictured, right) is the first Puerto Rican woman elected to Congress, representing New York's 12<sup>th</sup> district. Born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, she is the former director of the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs in the United States for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ([www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/congress/velazquez.htm](http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/congress/velazquez.htm)).





## 1993

- An act concerning the gender and racial composition of the membership of Connecticut state boards, commissions, committees, and councils is passed.



- *Take our Daughters to Work Day*, a project of the MS. Foundation, debuts in Connecticut. It is designed to build girls' self-esteem and open their eyes to a variety of career possibilities for women.
- **Janet Reno** (pictured, left) is the first female Attorney General of the United States. A graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Law School in 1963, she is the former State Attorney in Florida ([www.wic.org/bio/jreno/htm](http://www.wic.org/bio/jreno/htm)).

## 1994

- The University of Connecticut's President's Commission on the Status of Women finds that gender distribution in employees at UConn is lacking. Although women make up 49% of employees, the majority of women hold clerical and low ranking positions. Women fill only 30% of faculty positions, and of that only 15% are full professors.



- **Shannon Faulkner** (pictured, left) becomes the first woman to attend the Citadel, a previously all-male military training facility.
- **Lt. Kara Hultgreen** is recognized as the first woman fully qualified combat fighter pilot, and, sadly, the first woman combat fighter pilot to die in service ([www.userpages.aug.com](http://www.userpages.aug.com)).

▪ **Nancy Wyman** is the first woman in Connecticut's history to be elected State Comptroller. Wyman demonstrates great leadership throughout her term by advocating issues concerning women, children, and the elderly. Wyman's success is evident as she is re-elected in 1998 and again in 2002. (PCSW).

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*"The world is round and the place which may seem like the end, may also be only the beginning."*

*-Ivy Baker Priest*

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- After serving in the state House of Representatives for ten years, **M. Jodi Rell** (pictured) is elected Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut, the first Republican woman to hold the position.



#### 1996

- The United Nations fourth World Conference on Women's Issues is held in Beijing, China.
- The nation's first ever women's professional basketball game is played by the American Basketball League's New England Blizzard at the Hartford Civic Center ([Connecticut Firsts](#), 1996).



#### 1997

- **Madeline Albright** (pictured, left) is sworn in as Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton. She is the first woman to hold this position and becomes the highest-ranking woman in U.S. government. An expert on international affairs, Albright had previously been a national security advisor to President Carter, a professor at Georgetown University, and an ambassador to the United Nations (<http://www.star.niu.edu/in-depth/look/womens/history/profiles/index.asp>).
- **Aida Alvarez** becomes the first Puerto Rican and the first Latina to be an administrator of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA).



#### 1998

- Having previously served three terms in the state legislature, **Susan Bysiewicz** (pictured, right) is elected Secretary of the State in Connecticut. Since taking office, Bysiewicz has advocated for greater transparency in the government, more voter participation, and privacy protection.



- **Denise Napier** (pictured, left) breaks multiple barriers as she becomes the first woman and first African American to be elected state treasurer. Throughout her term, Napier improves the state college savings program, making it among the nation's best. She also continuously supports small, women, and minority owned businesses by offering them opportunities to work with the Treasury's investment managers (PCSW).





- **Tammy Baldwin** becomes both the first openly gay person and the first woman from Wisconsin to be elected to Congress.

## 1999

- In Connecticut, an act requiring health insurers to cover prescription birth control is passed. This new law requires that whenever a health insurer covers a prescription, they also must cover all FDA approved contraceptive methods.
- The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team wins the World Cup, defeating China 5-4 in a penalty kick shoot out after regulation ends in a 0-0 tie. The team's victory helps elevate women's soccer to the global stage and earns them the title of *Sports Illustrated's* Sportswomen of the Year (<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/features/2002/sportsman/1999/>).
- **Lt. Col. Eileen Collins** becomes the first woman to command a space shuttle mission.



## 2000

- **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (pictured) is elected to the U.S. Senate. Senator Clinton becomes the first First Lady to be elected to the Senate and the first woman elected statewide in New York. During her time as First Lady, Clinton worked mostly on healthcare issues and on supporting anti-crime measures like the Brady Bill. Since becoming a senator, Clinton has been an advocate for children and families, a strong supporter of expanding the economy through tax credits and investment in small business, and has been a backer of the Patient's Bill of Rights. Senator Clinton is recognized around the world as an advocate for democracy, religious tolerance, and human rights ([http://clinton.senate.gov/about\\_hrc.html](http://clinton.senate.gov/about_hrc.html)).




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*"...If women are healthy and educated, their families flourish. If women are free from violence, their families thrive. If women have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners in society, their families will prosper."*

*-Hillary Rodham Clinton*

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- **Jackie Joyner-Kersey** (pictured, left) is voted *Sports Illustrated* for Women's Greatest Female Athlete of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Kersee, a member of the first generation to benefit from Title IX, participated in both basketball and track in high school. She went on to win three gold, one silver and two bronze medals over four consecutive Olympic games for track and field events ([http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/siforwomen/top\\_100/30/](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/siforwomen/top_100/30/)).



## 2001

- **Jane Swift** (pictured, above right) becomes the first female governor of the state of Massachusetts, the first pregnant governor in history, and at age 36, the youngest governor in history.
- The U.S. Congress that convenes in January of 2001 has a record number of 74 female members. The House of Representatives has 61 female members and the Senate has 13 female members (PCSW).
- ESPN's list of the top North American athletes of the century includes many women. Among them are **Martina Navratilova**, **Jackie Joyner-Kersey**, **Wilma Rudolph**, **Chris Evert** (pictured, below right), **Billie Jean King**, **Althea Gibson**, and **Bonnie Blair** (PCSW).



## 2002



- U.S. Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi** of California (pictured, left) is elected Democratic leader of the House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority. This makes her the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Congress and the first woman to lead a major political party (<http://democraticleader.house.gov/>).
- Between 1998 and 2008, women's participation in the labor force is expected to increase by 15% while men will see an increase of only 10%. As a result, women will increase their share of the labor force from 46% to 48% (PCSW).
- Since 1984, the number of women in graduate schools has exceeded the number of men (PCSW).





- **Halle Berry** (pictured, right) becomes the first African American woman to receive an Oscar for Best Actress.
- Having led a long and illustrious career in public service, **Elizabeth Dole** (pictured, left) is elected to the U.S. Senate. Dole was Federal Trade Commissioner from 1974 to 1979, the U.S. Secretary of Labor in 1983 and in 1989, was appointed Secretary of Labor by President George H.W. Bush. In 1990, she assumed presidency of the American Red Cross and held the position until 1999 when she unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. presidency ([www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)).



- In Connecticut, women make up 31% of the State Legislature. Females hold 8 of 36 seats in the Senate and 49 of 151 seats in the House of Representatives. Currently, women hold a majority of statewide constitutional offices: Governor (**Jodi Rell**), Secretary of the State (**Susan Bysiewicz**), Comptroller (**Nancy Wyman**), and Treasurer (**Denise Nappier**) (PCSW).

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*"I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great big mosaic at the end."*  
- Alice Paul

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## 2003

- Connecticut's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- **Moir K. Lyons** (pictured) is unanimously elected to her third term as Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. She is the first woman to serve as Speaker, the legislature's highest position. Prior to her election, she served as House Majority Leader. Representative Lyons has received numerous accolades for her dedication and leadership in politics, including national recognition as one of *Good Housekeeping's* "Top Ten Women in Government" (<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/hdo/146/bio146/asp>).





- On December 29<sup>th</sup>, the **University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team** (pictured) ties the NCAA All-time win mark with 69 consecutive wins. The game was played in front of their 23<sup>rd</sup> straight sell-out crowd of 16,294 at the Hartford Civic Center ([www.uconnhuskies.com](http://www.uconnhuskies.com)).

#### 2004

- After Gov. John Rowland's resignation in 2004, **M. Jodi Rell** is sworn in as Connecticut's 87<sup>th</sup> Governor. Her most important priorities include bolstering homeland security efforts, improving educational opportunities for all children, improving the state's economy and job outlook and "demanding the highest ethical standards of everyone serving in state government" (<http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp>).

#### 2005

**Condoleezza Rice** (pictured) becomes the first female African-American Secretary of State. Prior to this appointment, she served as the first female National Security Advisor to the President of the United States. Before entering the political arena, Rice served as Stanford University's Provost.



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